

Rewrite claim 23 in amended form as follows:

23. (Amended) A purified human Desert hedgehog protein obtainable by expression of a DNA isolated from a human cell selected from the group consisting of epithelial cells, endothelial cells, interstitial cells, chondrocytes, monocytes, granulocytes, lymphocytes, neurocytes, bone marrow cells, and established cell lines therefrom including the cell lines ARH-77 (ATCC CRL-1621) and K-562 (ATCC CCL-243), wherein the DNA comprises a nucleotide sequence [at least 90% identical with SEQ ID NO:7] amplifiable by polymerase chain reaction using a sense primer encoding a part of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 in the region of the amino acids -22 to -1 in combination with an antisense primer complementary to a nucleotide sequence encoding a part of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 in the region of the amino acids 177 to 374 and encodes a contiguous amino acid sequence which conserves amino acid residues corresponding to Glu-155 and one or more residues selected from the group consisting of Ala-14, Gly-29, and Ala-46 of the amino acid sequence [aligned with SEQ ID NO:7] of SEQ ID NO:1.

Delete non-elected claims 7-22 without prejudice to the present invention and without prejudice to applicants' rights under Sections 121, 120 and 119 to pursue the subject